

HR 2909

Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Social Welfare

Introduced: Jun 17, 2009

Current Status: Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Action: Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform (Jun 17, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/2909>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McDermott, Jim [D-WA-7]

Party: Democratic • State: WA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Jun 24, 2009
Rep. Stark, Fortney Pete [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 24, 2009
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Jun 25, 2009
Rep. Hinchey, Maurice D. [D-NY-22]	D · NY		Jun 25, 2009
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jun 26, 2009
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Jul 7, 2009
Rep. Kucinich, Dennis J. [D-OH-10]	D · OH		Jul 7, 2009
Rep. Grayson, Alan [D-FL-8]	D · FL		Jul 17, 2009
Rep. Tsongas, Niki [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Jul 21, 2009
Rep. Frank, Barney [D-MA-4]	D · MA		Jul 30, 2009
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Sep 9, 2009
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Sep 9, 2009
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-13]	D · NJ		Sep 9, 2009
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-3]	D · MA		Sep 17, 2009
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Nov 6, 2009
Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Feb 22, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2009
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Social Welfare

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 S 1625	Related bill	Aug 6, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Jun 17, 2009)

Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009 - Amends part A of title XI of the Social Security Act to direct the Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau), in collaboration with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), to calculate modern poverty thresholds and modern poverty rates for each calendar year.

Directs the Census Bureau and the BLS to choose: (1) the most appropriate distribution of consumption expenditures on food, clothing, and shelter, which may, if appropriate, exclude families receiving subsidies for food, clothing, or shelter; and (2) the reference family for the modern poverty measure.

Declares that the modern poverty threshold for a reference family shall be an amount equal to the average of 120% of the 33rd percentile of the distribution chosen, allowing for calculations to rely on a limited band converging on this percentile, during four or more of the most recent years for which data is available from the Consumer Expenditure Survey, a superior federal government source of data, or some combination of such sources. Prescribes requirements for determining modern poverty rates.

Directs the Census Bureau, in collaboration with the BLS, to contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to develop and publish methods of: (1) calculating a decent living standard threshold; and (2) measuring the extent to which the income of families in the United States is sufficient to meet it.

Directs the Census Bureau, in collaboration with the BLS, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to contract with NAS to develop and publish a method of: (1) measuring the extent of medical care risk in the United States; and (2) calculating the number and percentage of individuals in the United States who lack adequate health insurance, leaving them at risk of being unable to afford needed treatment.

Directs the Census Bureau to contract with NAS to develop a set of recommendations for methods to implement annual modern poverty measurement at the state and local level and a timeframe for the implementation.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 17, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 17, 2009:** Referred to House Ways and Means
- **Jun 17, 2009:** Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
- **Jun 17, 2009:** Referred to House Oversight and Government Reform